



**FINNEY COUNTY**  
KANSAS

# 2026 Legislative Agenda

**Finney County,  
Kansas**

The Finney County 2026 Legislative Agenda establishes Finney County's official legislative priorities and policy positions for the 2026 Kansas Legislative Session and related federal advocacy. This agenda is intended to guide Finney County's interactions with state and federal policymakers and to align Finney County's advocacy efforts with those of the Kansas Association of Counties.

Finney County supports legislation that preserves local control, ensures stable and equitable funding for county services, and recognizes counties as essential partners in governance and service delivery. Finney County's legislative positions reflect statutory responsibilities, fiscal realities, and regional service demands within Southwest Kansas.



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# Agenda

Guiding Principles and Home Rule  
and Local Governance 03

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Unfunded Mandates and State  
Partnership, and Taxation,  
Valuation, and County Finance 04

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Transportation, Roads, and  
Infrastructure, and Public Safety,  
Courts, and Corrections 05

---

Public Health and Human  
Services, and Natural Resources,  
Agriculture, and Environmental  
Policy 06

---

Intergovernmental Relations and  
Regional Collaboration, and  
Federal Legislative Priorities 07

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Conclusion 08

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## Guiding Principles

Finney County's legislative priorities are guided by the principles that decisions are best made at the local level by officials accountable to the communities they serve, that counties must be provided sufficient authority and resources to meet statutory obligations, and that intergovernmental partnerships should be collaborative and equitable.

Finney County supports policies that promote fiscal responsibility, transparency, and predictability in local government operations. Finney County further supports regional cooperation and flexibility to address shared challenges while opposing one-size-fits-all mandates that fail to account for local conditions.

## Home Rule and Local Governance

Finney County supports the preservation and strengthening of county home rule authority as provided under the Kansas Constitution. Counties are uniquely positioned to respond effectively to local needs because they are governed by locally elected officials who understand the communities they serve and are directly accountable to residents.

Finney County opposes legislative actions that unnecessarily preempt, restrict, or erode county home rule authority, including mandates that limit counties' discretion over budgeting, personnel, service delivery, land use authority granted by statute, and administrative operations. Policies that reduce local flexibility or impose uniform requirements without regard to population, geography, or service demand undermine effective governance.

Finney County supports state policies that recognize counties as partners in achieving statewide objectives and that provide flexibility in how those objectives are met. When uniform standards are established, Finney County supports meaningful consultation with counties during policy development and adequate funding for implementation.



## Unfunded Mandates and State Partnership

Finney County supports the principle that any new or expanded responsibilities imposed on counties by the State of Kansas or the federal government must be fully funded. Counties should not be required to absorb additional costs for programs or services without corresponding revenue or funding support.

Finney County opposes unfunded or underfunded mandates that shift financial responsibility to counties and taxpayers without local discretion or resources.

Finney County supports a renewed state-county partnership that recognizes shared responsibility for delivering services required by law, including public safety, courts, public health, elections, and human services.

## Taxation, Valuation, and County Finance

Finney County supports a fair, uniform, and transparent system of taxation and property valuation that provides predictability for taxpayers and stability for county operations. Finney County supports improvements to valuation practices and notices requirements that enhance accuracy and public understanding while avoiding unnecessary administrative burden.

Finney County opposes state-imposed property tax caps, expenditure limits, or revenue restrictions that do not account for statutory obligations, population growth, inflationary pressures, and regional service demands. Such limitations reduce counties' ability to meet required service levels and respond to emergencies or changing conditions.

Finney County supports diversified and flexible revenue options to reduce overreliance on property taxes and supports a comprehensive review of tax exemptions that erode the local tax base and shift costs to remaining taxpayers. Finney County supports state participation in funding mandated county services and opposes the diversion or reallocation of local revenues.





## Transportation, Roads, and Infrastructure

Finney County supports the continuation of a fully funded, long-term statewide transportation program supported by predictable and dedicated revenue sources. Counties maintain extensive road and bridge systems that are critical to agriculture, industry, emergency response, and regional commerce.

Finney County supports increased funding and flexibility for bridge repair and replacement, particularly for aging rural infrastructure. Finney County supports policies that address extraordinary wear and damage to county roads caused by heavy, industrial, or commercial traffic.

Finney County supports modernized procurement, contracting, and project delivery methods that improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Finney County further supports regional coordination on transportation and infrastructure investments that reflect Southwest Kansas economic activity, freight movement, and workforce needs.



## Public Safety, Courts, and Corrections

Finney County supports adequate and sustainable state funding for county responsibilities within the criminal justice system, including detention, court operations, and related services. Counties should not bear a disproportionate share of costs for state-mandated public safety functions.

Finney County supports expansion of behavioral health treatment capacity, including competency evaluation and restoration services, to reduce inappropriate incarceration and jail overcrowding. Finney County supports increased resources for community corrections and juvenile services to improve public safety outcomes and reduce recidivism.

Finney County supports sustainable funding models and local control for 911 and emergency communications systems. The County also supports enhanced coordination and funding for emergency management, disaster response, and homeland security functions.

## Public Health and Human Services

Finney County supports stable and adequate funding for local health departments that reflects population size, service demand, and inflationary costs. Counties play a critical role in protecting public health and responding to emergencies and must have sufficient resources to do so effectively.

Finney County supports improvements to Medicaid reimbursement rates and reductions in service waiting lists that impact county health systems and public health outcomes. Finney County supports expanded access to behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services.

Finney County supports locally driven, collaborative approaches to housing instability, homelessness, childcare availability, and workforce participation. Finney County opposes new unfunded mandates that shift responsibility for human services to counties without adequate funding or flexibility.

## Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Policy

Finney County supports science-based, locally informed water policy that balances conservation, agricultural viability, and long-term economic sustainability. Counties must be included as partners in the development and implementation of natural resource policies that affect local communities.

Finney County supports state funding and technical assistance to help counties meet environmental regulatory requirements and fulfill responsibilities related to land management, flood control, and resource stewardship.





## Intergovernmental Relations and Regional Collaboration

Finney County supports policies that expand authority and flexibility for interlocal agreements and shared services among counties, cities, and other public entities. Regional collaboration is essential to addressing infrastructure, public safety, housing, and health challenges efficiently.

Finney County supports state programs and funding structures that recognize the regional service demands placed on counties by population centers, economic activity, and workforce dynamics.

## Federal Legislative Priorities

Finney County supports federal policies that oppose unfunded mandates on local governments and require full funding for any federally required county services. The County supports preservation of Medicaid program stability and adequate reimbursement levels.

Finney County supports continued federal investment in transportation, broadband, public safety, and emergency management. The County supports preservation of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, which is critical to financing county infrastructure projects, and supports efforts to reduce unnecessary federal regulatory and administrative burdens on local governments.





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## Conclusion

Finney County will work collaboratively with the Kansas Association of Counties, state legislators, federal officials, and regional partners to advance policies that preserve local control, ensure sustainable funding, and support counties' ability to serve residents effectively.





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[www.finneycounty.org](http://www.finneycounty.org)